

Atty Dkt. No.: YAMA-008  
USSN: 09/695,531

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a plurality of distinct microbial species wherein each constituent member of said plurality is:

- (a) antagonistic against a plurality of microbial pathogens;
- (b) non-pathogenic towards plants and animals;
- (c) is tolerant of high temperatures;
- (d) grows rapidly; and
- (e) proliferates on a complex substrate,

wherein said plurality is made up of at least 5 different bacterial species and at least 2 different fungal species and comprises *Bacillus subtilis* and at least one of: *Bacillus thuringiensis*, *Curtobacterium* sp., *Arthrobacter paraffineus*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and *Comomonas acidovorans*, wherein each member of said plurality has been proliferated on a complex substrate.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality comprises at least 5 distinct microbial species.

4. (Original) The composition according to Claim 3, wherein said plurality comprises at least 5 bacterial species.

5. (Original) The composition according to Claim 3, wherein said plurality comprises at least 2 fungal species.

6. (Original) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition comprises a carrier.

7. (Original) The composition according to Claim 6, wherein said carrier is a liquid.

8. (Original) The composition according to Claim 6, wherein said carrier is a solid.

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9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising:

(a) a plurality of distinct microbial species made up of at least 5 different bacterial species and at least 2 different fungal species, wherein each constituent member of said plurality is:

- (i) antagonistic against a plurality of microbial pathogens;
- (ii) non-pathogenic towards plants and animals;
- (iii) is tolerant of high temperatures;
- (iv) grows rapidly; and
- (v) has been proliferated on a complex substrate; and

(b) a carrier.

11. (Original) The composition according to Claim 10, wherein said carrier is a liquid.

12. (Original) The composition according to Claim 10, wherein said carrier is a solid.

13. (Original) In an agricultural method, the improvement comprising:  
applying to at least one of soil or plant tissue a composition according to Claim 1.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a composition according to Claim 1, said method comprising:

(a) identifying a plurality of microbial species comprising *Bacillus subtilis* and at least one of: *Bacillus thuringiensis*, *Curtobacterium* sp., *Arthrobacter paraffinicus*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and *Comomonas acidovorans*, wherein each member of said plurality is:

- (i) antagonistic against a plurality of microbial pathogens;
- (ii) non-pathogenic towards plants and animals;
- (iii) tolerant of high temperatures;
- (iv) grows rapidly; and
- (v) proliferates on a complex substrate;

(b) proliferating said plurality on a complex substrate, and

(c) combining said plurality to produce said composition.

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15. (Original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said method further comprises separately proliferating each species prior to said combining.
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Original) The method according to Claim 15, wherein said method further comprises combining said composition with a carrier.
18. (Original) The method according to Claim 17, wherein said carrier is a fluid.
19. (Original) The method according to Claim 17, wherein said carrier is a solid.
20. (Original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said identifying comprises subjecting a candidate microbial species to a series of assays which identify whether the species has all of said (i)-(v) characteristics.
21. (Cancelled)